

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 DOTE-00 FMC-02 CG-00 OFA-01

DLOS-05 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 /060 W

----- 091168

R 031501Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6041

INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL

AMCONSUL QUEBEC

UNCLAS OTTAWA 1196

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, CA, EWWT

SUBJ: LONGSHOREMEN STRIKE IN QUEBEC

1. FOLLOWING BREAK-DOWN IN CONCILIATION EFFORTS  
SOME 1,400 ST. LAWRENCE RIVER LONGSHOREMEN BEGAN  
WORK STOPPAGE AT MONTREAL ON MARCH 29. THEY WERE JOINED  
IN LEGAL STRIKE BY ANOTHER 800 LONGSHOREMEN AT QUEBEC  
CITY AND TROIS-RIVIERES ON MARCH 31. FEDERAL LABOR  
DEPT HAS APPOINTED MEDIATOR BUT SPOKESMEN FOR  
INTERNATIONAL LONGSHOREMEN'S ASSOCIATION (ILA) AND  
MARITIME EMPLOYER'S ASSOCIATION (MEA) PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGED  
THAT PARTIES ARE FAR APART.

2. PRIMARY ISSUE IN DISPUTE IS JOB SECURITY. CONCILIATION  
REPORT RECOMMEND 40-HOUR WEEK FOR 40 WEEKS PER ANNUM  
IN MONTREAL, 35 WEEKS IN QUEBEC CITY AND 30 WEEKS IN  
TROIS-RIVIERES. ILA IS DEMANDING A GUARANTEED ANNUAL  
WAGE BASED ON 2,080 HOURS OF WORK EQUIVALENT TO AN  
EIGHT-HOUR DAY, FIVE-DAY WEEK FOR 52 WEEKS. ON WAGES,  
MEA AND ILA ARE REPORTEDLY PREPARED TO ACCEPT CONCILIATION  
PROPOSAL AMOUNTING TO NEARLY 60 PERCENT INCREASE OVER  
THREE YEARS, RAISING C DOLS 5.10 HOURLY BASE RATE TO  
C DOLS 8.00.  
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3. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS STRIKE EFFECT ON HARBOR  
ACTIVITIES NOT YET SERIOUS. SOME SHIPS BEING DIVERTED  
TO OTHER PORTS. HOWEVER, LENGTHY STRIKE WOULD HAVE  
MORE SERIOUS IMPACT AND COULD EVENTUALLY LEAD TO BACK-  
TO-WORK LEGISLATION AS WAS ENACTED ONLY FEW DAYS AGO  
IN WEST COAST LONGSHOREMEN'S STRIKE.

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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